

the CORONADO

DISPATCH



Late Spring 2023



CNA
YEAR-IN-REVIEW

HOME TOUR
RECAP

THE RESURGENCE
OF MIRACLE MILE

Photo courtesy of Willie Sommers

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Photo courtesy of Willie Sommers

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CNA Year-In-Review

BY BECKY SANTIAGO, CNA PRESIDENT

The Coronado Neighborhood Association Board serves a one-year term from June to the end of May the following year. This past year, four new Board members, including Beth and Brian Johnson, Dan Clark, and Kirsten Keane, joined veteran members Tina Hawkins, Kayla Clark, Darin Toone, Brandin Bear, and myself, Becky Santiago. I owe a tremendous amount to this board: to the new members who brought exciting energy and determination and to the veterans who provided guidance and stability to the team.

As we approach the end of this year's term, I'd like to provide a recap of the initiatives and accomplishments achieved by the Board. While most everything was done as a team effort, several efforts were particularly heavy lifts, and I'm fortunate that we had members champion them and carry through on the effort. Below is a description of the different initiatives and events and recognition of the individuals who helped make them happen.

NEW WEBSITE

Dan Clark and Kirsten Keane spearheaded the development of our new website. The membership-based platform, Wild Apricot, provides significantly more functionality from the member and administrative sides. The new platform has been instrumental in streamlining our financial systems, tracking membership more accurately, centralizing event registrations, facilitating tool shed rentals, and providing a more user-friendly experience to

members. Dan contributed significant time and energy researching the platform and transferring members from the previous system into this one. He has also done a tremendous job learning about the platform's functionalities for us to operate better as an organization through it. Kirsten Keane helped bring the new website to life. Her efforts were instrumental in transferring content from the old website and adding vibrancy to the site, thanks to her eye for design and layout.

TOOL SHED AND GARDEN

The CNA Community Garden & Tool Shed are incredible resources for the neighborhood. The Tool Shed has power tools, ladders, event equipment (tables and chairs), backyard games, and more available to active CNA members for a low-cost rental fee or even FREE. The community garden is open and a learning space for disadvantaged youth participating in G Road's after-school programs. Both the garden and tool shed are located on the south side of Emerson Elementary School. I'd like to recognize Brian Johnson, a leader in building the new garden infrastructure and getting the tool shed more organized than ever before. From having nothing but a blank slate at the beginning of 2022 when we had to move from our previous garden and tool shed location to having a fully operational garden and tool shed in less than a year, Brian helped transform the space into one of the most valuable CNA assets.

HOME TOUR

Kayla Clark. Wow. Kayla was essentially President of the CNA for the two months leading up to Home Tour, as she headed the largest planning effort of the year. Home Tour took a two-year hiatus because of COVID, so re-initiating it was challenging. Not to mention, only one person on the Board had previously been involved in planning a Home Tour, so there was a lot to learn (thanks to previous planners for leaving behind planning books for us to work from!). Kayla was organized, detailed, and diligent, set on making the event happen to the best of our abilities. Dan Clark also played a large role in organizing the sponsors and vendors, which was no easy task. Thank you both for helping bring this event back to life! And thank you to all the neighbors who volunteered at the street fair, and especially to those neighbors who volunteered to be on tour. Without homes, there would be no Home Tour, so we are beyond grateful for your generosity and participation in the event.

GIVING PROGRAM

This year, the CNA implemented the Giving Program, a formal process for contributing to neighbors planning events or initiatives that benefit the community. It provides transparency and accountability to the CNA and helps us better track how funds are spent. The Giving Program has four categories: Charitable Donations, Arts and Culture, Coronado Kids, and Safety. Funds raised at WayneFest and Home Tour support these programs.

WAYNEFEST

Coronado's one-day music festival at Coronado Park, WayneFest, was back in full swing this year. We owe this fantastic event to Michael Anderson, who has been leading the planning and organization of WayneFest since its inception. A celebration of music and arts, WayneFest featured prominent musicians and live local artists, as well as a silent auction to win one-of-a-kind art pieces.



Photo courtesy of Steve Ginter



Photo courtesy of Steve Ginter

Coronado Dispatch 2023 Life Saving



Megan Poline
PHOTOGRAPHER • WANDERLUST



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Kickball Tournament

For the second year, the CNA was thrilled to host a community kickball tournament at Coronado Park. The event draws people from outside the neighborhood, and we are thrilled to show our community spirit. While the Board was knee-deep planning Home Tour, Tina Hawkins managed to organize the event. It is undoubtedly a crowd favorite, and we look forward to future tournaments.

Halloween Bike Ride

Riding bikes and cruising in golf carts in costume, what could be more Coronado? The Halloween bike ride is one of my favorite events of the year. For the third consecutive year, the bike ride featured repeat and new pit stop activities and competitions for prizes. I'd like to thank Anita and Scott Richardson for being the final stop for the ride and putting on an incredible Haunted Yard. They also generously provided treats and drinks to participants.

Pancake Breakfast & Ice Cream Social

This year's two new events, the pancake breakfast and the ice cream social, were tasty events held at the community garden. It was an opportunity to see the new space, meet neighbors, and get some yummy treats. We were thrilled with the turnout for both and hope to have other cozier events like this throughout the year.

Archive Day

In clearing out our old community center, we were overwhelmed with the amount of paperwork left over

the years. Some of the paperwork included valuable records and some of it needed to be cleared out. We had a great group of volunteers come together at the Community Garden to help us go through boxes and boxes of old receipts, records, photos, meeting notes, sorting out valuable records and clearing out the rest.

CNA SUPPORTED EVENTS

The CNA is a resource for the community. We want to support your events and initiatives to the best of our ability. Below are two fantastic events which were generously planned and coordinated by neighbors, and supported by the CNA.

Oak Street Alley Mural Fest

A one-day festival at Oak Street Alley, Mural Fest is an event to celebrate the arts. Live muralists maintain and enhance the liveliness of the alley by painting new designs and concepts, while musicians keep the scene upbeat and food trucks provide sustenance to the crowds. Thank you, Joey Grether, for planning such a wonderful event.

Coronado Kids Carnival

Marc and Emily Giannone and Leslie Easley have a youthful spirit – so much so that they generously planned a carnival open for all Coronado kids to join.

Again, thank you to all those who contribute time, energy, and financial donations to create incredible events that make Coronado a special place to live. We couldn't do it without you, and we hope to see repeat and new faces involved in planning events this year!

Xeriscaping: Conserving Water and Bringing Beauty to Your Yard

BY MARIBETH ENGLAND



Kellan enjoying the turf



Red Bird of Paradise



Red Bird of Paradise

I have lived in Arizona my entire life and began learning at a very young age about the lack of water here in the desert and the importance of water conservation. We chanted “Save Water and Save Water Again!” starting in first grade. Arizona, on average, gets less than 10 inches of rain per year which means we must carefully use our limited resources of freshwater. Preserving our freshwater resources is ingrained in this desert lady’s blood. However, 269 non-desert-dwelling transplants are moving to Arizona daily and may not understand how important restricting water usage is. So how can one become a responsible desert-dweller and easily decrease water usage? Consider xeriscaping your yards.

Xeriscaping removes non-native landscaping, like lawn grass, and replaces it with native, drought-tolerant landscaping. Consider this—most lawns need 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week or 52 to 78 inches yearly. Remember, Arizona gets less than 10 inches of rainfall per year. A pop-up lawn irrigation system uses approximately 16 gallons of water per minute. A vacant house on my block waters its lawn three times a day for 10 minutes each watering. That is 160 gallons per

run or 480 gallons per day. For perspective, if every house in our neighborhood had grass and watered it at the same rate, we would be burning through 1,920,000 gallons per day. 1.92 MILLION gallons could be redirected for growing food or providing drinking water.

Some people argue grass helps cool the hot desert we live in. This is slightly true, but drought-tolerant plants can provide a cooling effect while using far less water. For example, the Desert Botanical Garden, located in the heart of Phoenix, can measure up to 10 degrees cooler than the rest of Phoenix due to the plants and trees there. If you haven’t visited yet, go. It’s lovely, and there is no grass there at all. There are, however, natural native ground covers, shrubs, bushes, and trees that require limited water, providing a cooling effect and shade without much water usage.

Not ready to get rid of the grass because you, your children, and your dogs enjoy rolling around in it? Artificial turf is another great solution. There is minimal maintenance (sleeping in on a Saturday in July rather than waking up at dawn to mow the lawn before it hits 100 degrees is priceless) and it constantly looks perfect, and the newer products don’t emit nearly as much heat as the artificial turf of yesteryear. Those

concerned about environmental impacts also have the option of using recycled turf.

Still want your grass? Consider reducing the size of your lawn and limiting it to just a small portion in the front or backyard rather than both. You can accent your smaller lawn or, even better, turf or rock landscape with drought-tolerant plants with colorful blooms that attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and other native pollinators. Here are a few of my favorites:

The **Red Bird of Paradise** grows fast, up to 8 feet tall, with beautiful red and orange blooms from spring through fall. It requires water once weekly in the summer, every other week in spring and fall, and once monthly in winter.

Trailing Rosemary is a great ground cover replacement. It smells amazing and has blue flowers in the spring. It only requires water every two to three weeks during the summer and once a month in the winter.

Fairy Duster bushes grow to be 4-6 feet tall and wide and have unique red pompoms that attract both hummingbirds and butterflies.

Desert Milkweed in a yard pretty much guarantees visits from butterflies. Aphids, however, love to feast on milkweed and can be hard to control without the use of pesticides. Introducing ladybugs to eat the aphids can be another fun addition to your xeriscape.

The **Evergreen Pistache** tree can grow 25 feet tall, producing loads of needed shade. It is drought tolerant but grows quicker with weekly watering.

Hopefully, you're ready to start chanting "Save Water and Save Water Again" and begin conserving more water and supporting our desert ecosystem. There are so many resources on the internet, with experts at local nurseries, horticulturists at the Desert Botanical Garden, or even passionate neighbors that can help you get started on your xeriscaping journey.



Trailing Rosemary



Fairy Duster



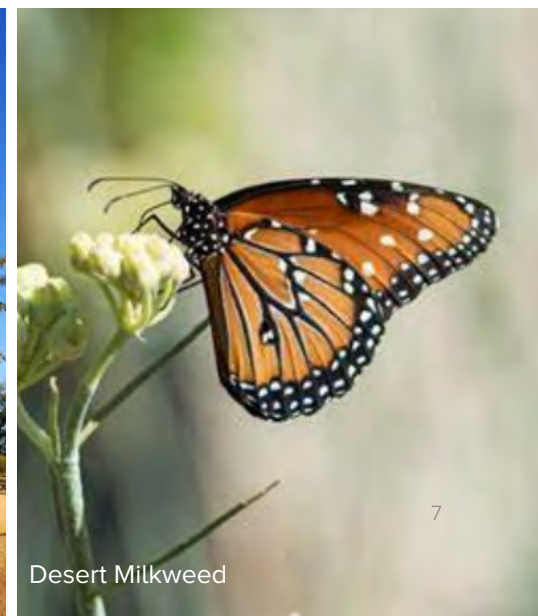
Fairy Duster



Desert Milkweed



Evergreen Pistache



Desert Milkweed



Home Tour: A Tradition Returns

BY KIRSTEN KEANE



After a two-year hiatus due to the Covid pandemic, the Coronado Home Tour returned. On February 24, the neighborhood guided more than 500 guests through the homes on tour and welcomed about 1,500 more at the street fair on the north side of Coronado Park.

This year's tour featured eight homes, the earliest built in 1914 and the latest in 1948. Some homes exhibited all original interiors, while many have seen minor and major renovations over the decades. Regardless, each house is a beautiful representation of the vibrant styles that define Coronado. We thank Vanessa Jenners (N. 12th Street), Tara DeSantis (E. Coronado Road), Carol Crockett (E Granada Road), Kathy AuCoin & Lane Dixon (N 10th Street), Katy, David, Rozlyn, and Griffin of the Good family (N. 8th Street), Rob and Tali Rubin (N. 13th Street), Roxanne and Larry Johnson (E. Granada Road), and Marc and Emily Giannone (E Granada Road) for graciously opening their homes to neighbors and visitors from the Phoenix metro area and beyond.

The tour also featured Whittier Elementary School on 16th Street and Palm Lane. Principal Dirk Olmstead and his staff gave tours of the historic building throughout the day.

Thank you to the home guides Linda Foundas, Brenda Szabo, Loren Kutsko, Jalen Johnson, Nicole Chelini King, Patricia Effing, Dean Shallberg, Alyssa Crockett, Chris Toward, Karen Demaso, and the Whittier Elementary staff for stewarding the hundreds of guests through the homes on tour.

It wouldn't be a signature Coronado event without Jens Larson and Phoenix Youth Circus Arts. Jens planned and coordinated the Kids Parade that kicked off the Home Tour and the Kids Carnival at Coronado Park, where our youngest street fair attendees could get a few lessons in acrobatics and equilibratics, juggling, and more. Stevie Smith—a Guinness World Record holder for walking on "Lucille," the giant ball for 25 hours straight—led the parade, with kids, parents, and other performers following joyfully behind. After the parade, students from Emerson Elementary School shared a sneak peek of their performance of Aladdin.

While our neighborhood now features many new murals along the Oak Street alley, don't miss the new one at Marc and Emily Giannone's home at 14th Street and Granada Road. During the festival, mural artist Shaggy (@shaggy.art) live-painted an undersea world.

Planning this event was a months-long endeavor, and we thank the entire CNA Board for their commitment—first, Kayla Clark for spearheading logistics and championing the planning effort. There are many elements to address when planning an event like



this, and she did a phenomenal job keeping her cool despite the never-ending and overwhelming to-do list. Dan Clark took on the tremendous task of recruiting and coordinating with all the folks participating in the street fair. He did a fantastic job managing constant communications and logistics for it.

Thank you to Tina Hawkins for planning the pre-tour dinner for the Home Tour hosts and your willingness to take on various tasks. Kirsten Keane was an absolute design queen and created amazing social media graphics and posts to promote the event. Similarly, Beth and Brian Johnson have greatly supported this year's event—from inventorying and organizing existing event supplies, distributing street closure notifications throughout the neighborhood, tracking decisions at meetings, and even building the street fair's fire extinguisher holders, Beth and Brian were always ready to jump in and tackle the latest fire drill.

Thank you to Brandin Bear and Darin Toone for your business insights related to rate structures and sponsor benefits; Jens Larsen for single-handedly planning the Kids Parade and circus area; and all the planners and contributors of previous Home Tour events—you set a high bar!

And finally, our day-of volunteers who pulled it off without a hitch: Ivana Olson, Scotty Norgren, Ingrid Rojas, and Jenny Howard of Where's Safety Team for ensuring the safety of all throughout the day; Katherine Davidson, Melissa and Alex Forbes, Ali Finney, and Jack Morrissette for showing up before the crack of dawn to set up tents and direct vendors; Jeremy Wells, Doreen Pollack, Fara Walling, Keely Varvel Hartsell,

Amanda Bennett, and Mary Muesegades for handling the ticket sales and merchandise booth; Amy and Sandra Leal for picking up and delivering lunches to the homeowners; Dave Tapley for single-handedly manning the bicycle valet service; and Brian Perkins, Stephanie McAllister, Nic DiCarlo, Remo Montalbano, and Cathy and Edgar Santiago for breaking down the event and cleaning up after a wildly successful day.

All the thanks we can give to Waymo, the Official Sponsor, and The Main Ingredient Ale House & Cafe and Ideal Air Conditioning, Peacock Sponsors—this event would not have been possible without their generous contributions.

“It was an honor and an amazing experience participating in the 2023 Coronado Home Tour. I met so many wonderful people and made fun new friends. Having the oldest home on tour, it was so nice having people admire and appreciate the history of my very humble home...I appreciate all the hard work everyone put into making this day a success. This is truly a special neighborhood with very special people, and I am so happy to be a part of it!”

- Tara DeSantis, 913 E. Coronado Road

All Home Tour Photos are courtesy of Steve Ginter (thatsginter.com, @thatsginteresting)



Meet the Artist: Douglas Miles

BY PHIL FREEDOM

Douglas Miles is a San Carlos Apache-Akimel O'odham painter, printmaker, and photographer from Arizona, who founded Apache Skateboards and Apache Skate Team. He is nationally recognized and a veteran in the Phoenix mural scene. His giant, bright, colorful depictions of native women's faces are beautifully elegant and sometimes combined with intense imagery and text. He has a few pieces from years prior in Oak Street Alley, the front of Barrio cafe, and many other murals all over the Southwest and the country. We wanted him to be a featured artist this year at the Mural Festival, and he hosted a discussion/workshop at the Hive Backyard the day after. So I reached out and threw him some questions to get a better idea of who he is and what he is up to.

When did you 1st get into doing street art and murals?

I've done murals before, but I started doing aerosol murals in 2013 at Self Help Graphics in ELA with Thomas "Breeze" Marcus and Vyal Reyes.

I was excited when I saw one of your characters in New Orleans outside at BMikes studio.

Where else have you been able to travel to and put up art?

I have painted murals in New Orleans, Boyle Heights, CA; South Bronx, NY, Miami, FL; Oakland, CA; San Francisco, CA; Globe, AZ; Northwood, IA; Las Cruces & Santa Fe, NM.

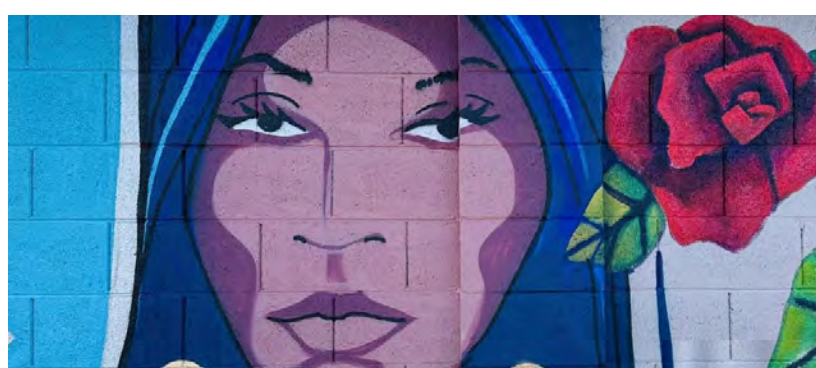
I just watched the Documentary you were a part of, The Mystery of Now. It was interesting and felt like punk rock and skateboarding help many of the youth on the reservation.

Do you think punk, skate, and graffiti culture call to all the youth?

Punk rock and skateboarding will always call to kids from all marginalized communities because it always allows for freedom of expression, aka DIY aesthetic.

Do you have an overarching message with your art and Apache Skateboards, or do you feel things get addressed as they arise?

When I started Apache Skateboards, I wanted it to be a vehicle to foster and encourage pride in our tribe. The pun is literally and figuratively intended. The medi-



um becomes the message in some instances. It was art for youth but also fine art for collectors. It has become a movement encouraging kids from all over to explore their creativity and have fun adventures with no limits.

I see American Rent is Due in your work. Is that paid with money, or can you elaborate on that?

When I said “American Rent Is Due” in a large mural on the Navajo Nation in Northern AZ, I wanted to share a message with American visitors and viewers. It is a way to recognize that a debt is owed to Native people due to the loss of land, resources, squatting, and land theft by settlers, corporations, and robber barons. It’s a simple yet important statement. American history has been whitewashed to justify land theft and exploitation of Native nations.

What do you feel museum culture gets wrong? Right?

I like museums, but there is a lot that museum staff and museum culture get wrong about Native people. Museums don’t define Native people or Native Art. We, the Native artists and culture makers, do. If you’re not careful, these museums will steal your culture and charge you money to see it.

What kind of projects do you have for the rest of this year?

A lot. We have to schedule and plan to fulfill all our projects. Traveling with the Apache Skate Team is a big part of it. The Apache Skate Team is one of the most influential agents of change in Native communities that no one talks about. These skaters, filmmakers, and artists have shaped new Native (youth) culture for almost two decades.

What’s next? What do you want to see in the future?

In the future, we see you and artists like you who are contributing to change in your community. That’s what we see, and that’s who we work with. We don’t work with clout chasers or shallow influencer culture. Real influence comes from honest hard work in a real hard community.



A Local's Guide to Bike Commuting

BY TINA HAWKINS

Meet Dave Tapley, your friendly neighbor and local bike commuting enthusiast who loves to share his passion for biking as transportation as often as possible. Dave, a board member for the non-profit Phoenix Spokes People, spent some time with me to talk about his commuter journey, provide suggestions for making commuting easier and more enjoyable, and share how to get more involved with making our bike path options safer in Central Phoenix.

Dave is from England, originally, where he never biked because it rained. All the time. When Dave moved to downtown Phoenix in 2011, he spent a lot of time without a car at first and needed alternate means of moving about his new city. Thus began his love affair with bicycle commuting. Dave biked to his job, restaurants, and entertainment, all within three miles of his apartment. Dave met and fell in love with his wife and Coronado neighbor, Jennifer Glenn, who made him part of our community in 2017. You may have met Dave manning the bike valet at Home Tour or know him and his wife from their band, Music for Spiders, at Coronado Porch Concerts.

In speaking with Dave, he wanted to be clear that he understands biking is not for every trip every time. He is not advocating biking 20 miles to work (though more power to you if that's you!) or biking to Costco to load up on giant packages of paper towels. Dave does own a car he uses once or twice a week for trips where bikes are less than practical. He also emphasized that some folks may have health complications restricting

their ability to bike safely. But for those interested in replacing car trips, he feels starting with a three-mile radius is very obtainable. You can get to any restaurant or venue within three miles on a bike in about 20 minutes. You don't have to battle downtown parking, parking meters, or parking garages; zipping home after is a breeze.

While most of us default to jumping in our cars for short trips, Dave's early experience in Phoenix conditioned him to use his bike. "Once you've embraced a bicycle as a primary form of transportation, even three miles begins feeling much shorter, locations feel closer, and you'd be surprised how many trips don't need a vehicle," Dave explained.

When talking to Dave, I lamented my love/hate relationship with my hybrid bicycle (mountain bike-type handlebars with thinner road-type wheels) and how much I found it challenging to enjoy. I purchased this bike almost ten years ago from dear friends, and it's in like-new condition due to lack of use. The seat is painful, I hate being hunched over on it, I don't trail ride, I don't ride for exercise, and I look ridiculous on it when I'm wearing heels. I feel guilty getting something new, though, because I don't believe I've used my bike enough yet, which feels wasteful. Meanwhile, I grumpily side-eye my friends on their comfy beach cruisers, sitting up straight with their lovely cup-holders while biking to brunch on Sundays and wishing we were all Waymo-ing our way to the restaurant instead.

“Sell it,” Dave said. Sell it and invest in something comfy, fun, and perfect for what I’d use it for. He argued if I had a bike I loved, I’d use it more, use my car less, save on gas, contribute to reduced traffic, and who knows, maybe someone else would give my old bike the adventures it deserves. What a radical idea, right? Why didn’t I think of that?

Is your curiosity piqued? Dave provided some other very valuable suggestions and ideas for those wishing to embrace urban biking a bit more:

Choosing Bikes: Find and talk to someone who commutes by bike. Dave feels uncomfortable bicycle seats are a huge deterrent to frequent commuting, and regular commuters can point you to many options out there. Commuters can also help you narrow down what you care about. Do you want comfort? Reliability? Lots of storage? An e-bike? Some combination? Commuters can point you in the right direction. Dave’s contact info is at the end of this article, and he’d love to talk to you about it.

Bike Routes: Dave recommends talking to commuters and never using Google Maps for your bike routes. Commuters can help you find less-trafficked, safer routes, making your rides easier and more enjoyable. Dave also provided some examples of his favorite quick and safe bike routes to get around below. Dave’s contact info is at the end of this article, and he can also help with more specific information.

Bike Breakdowns: In all the years Dave has been commuting, he has never had a complete and total flat tire commuting locally. The chances of this happening on city streets are rare. He has had 2-3 slow leaks in all his years of commuting multiple weekly trips and would encourage you not to let a fear of this deter you. Worst case: lock up and get a Waymo home.

Access to your Bike: “Reducing the friction between needing to run and grab one carton of milk and deciding which mode of transportation to take is key to using your bike more.” Dave has a bench/bike rack in front of his house. He keeps his bike locked there during the day to make it as easy as jumping in his car. However, he does lock it up in his backyard after his last ride of the day.

Necessities: Bike lights. You can buy great rechargeable or battery-operated lights for your bike, or Amazon also offers packs of disposable lights if that works better for you. Be visible. Also: a \$30 portable battery bike pump can also save a lot of time and error.

Advocacy for Safer Routes: Dave encourages civil participation, such as filling out city surveys and advocating for safe options for all commuters. The Phoenix Spokes People has a newsletter they publish with opportunities to voice your preferences and ask for safe bike routes, and it takes participation to exact change.

Dave and the Phoenix Spokes People can be found via the following resources:

Dave Tapley’s email: dave@psp.bike

Websites: phoenixspokespeople.org and psp.bike

Instagram: [@phxspokespeople](https://www.instagram.com/phxspokespeople)

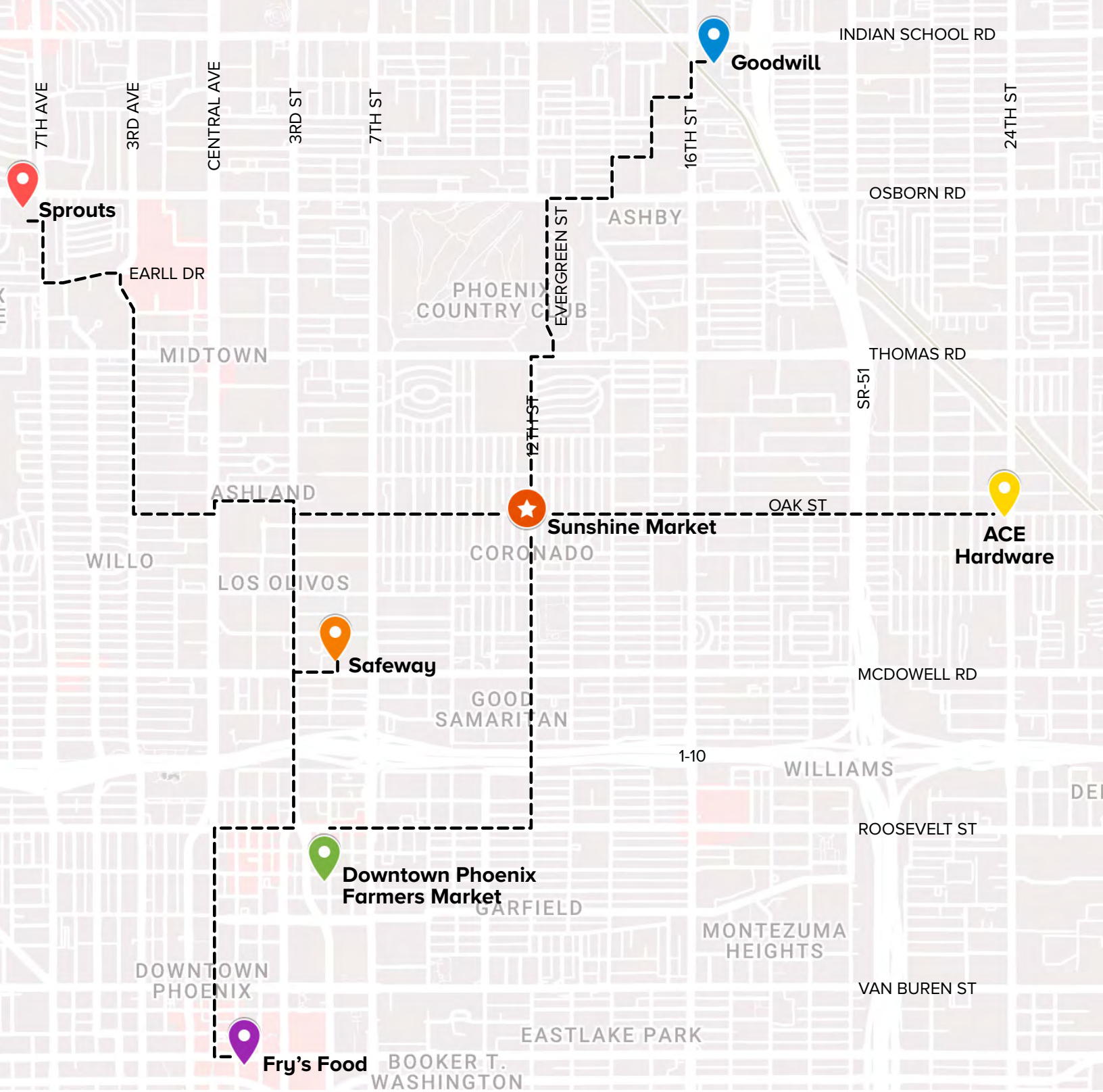
Facebook: Phoenix Spokes People

See a map of popular routes on the next page.



“The dream would be maybe 5% of trips could be made by bike, which would take thousands of cars off the road annually. And in any case, people should be able to make a trip by bike if it makes sense. Our streets shouldn’t prevent choice.”

– Dave Tapley



STARTING AT SUNSHINE MARKET (OAK ST & 12TH ST.)

Safeway	7th St & McDowell	1.4 miles	Oak to 3rd St, south, ten secs on McDowell sidewalk
Ace Hardware	24th St & Oak	1.7 miles	Oak east all the way, pedestrian bridge over SR 51
Downtown Farmers Market	5th St & McKinley	1.8 miles	12th St south to Roosevelt, west to 5th St
Goodwill	16th St & Indian School	2.2 miles	12th St north past Thomas, sidewalk to Evergreen, east, cut through neighborhoods
Fry's Food	1st St & Washington	2.6 miles	Oak to 3rd St, south to Roosevelt, east to 1st St, south to Washington
Sprouts	7th Ave & Indian School	2.7 miles	Oak to 3rd Ave, north to Earll, 7th Ave sidewalk shuffle in to lot

The resurgence of Miracle Mile

BY ED DRUMMOND



Photo courtesy of Ed Drummond

When my business Capstone Realty Professionals moved to the “Miracle Mile” in 2014, we had no idea about the rich history of the area or much about the surrounding neighborhoods. We had previously been located in a two-bedroom house/office conversion at the SR-51 and Bethany Home Road, but when we found the old Plasters Union building that had once been Phoenix Fire Station 7, we knew it was the perfect place to call home.

The “Miracle Mile” area refers to a section of McDowell Road between 7th Street and State Route 51 which was once a booming commercial district with a high concentration of retail shops, restaurants, and automotive dealerships. It was coined “Miracle Mile” in the 1950s and 1960s—the district’s heyday—and has since become synonymous with its vibrant history and culture. Rumor has it that Wayne Newton used to perform for the firefighters of Station 7 in our current backlot. Unfortunately, the area experienced a decline in the 1970s and 1980s as many businesses relocated to newer commercial areas in the suburbs.

When we moved in, it was challenging to envision the vibrant community that once existed on McDowell. It was hard to picture the sidewalks filled with pedestrians and small businesses or to imagine people once gathering and socializing near what is now a six-lane road. Despite the changes, there is a palpable sense

that something special had once existed here and could again with a little effort and dedication.

And that’s exactly what is happening. About seven years ago, a group of local merchants, neighbors, and other supporters of the area came together to form the Miracle Mile Merchants Association, a local community group with a mission to revitalize the area while staying true to its local, small business vibe. The group—backed by the non-profits Trellis, PCA, and Lisc—worked tirelessly to create awareness of the area, utilizing trusted relationships with local politicians and garnering the attention of other local movers and shakers, all to create change on the Miracle Mile. From street clean-ups to workshops for business owners, the group serves as a community resource building on the vision for the future.

Although COVID slowed the momentum of the Merchants Association, it did not stop it. Before COVID, the group’s highest priority was creating a more walkable Miracle Mile with slower traffic, more bike lanes, and added trees for shade. As crucial as this vision is, the efforts of this first Merchants group were not in vain. With new businesses taking an interest in the area and developments on the cusp of approval, the Mile has seen real change stemming from the efforts of this first round of advocates.

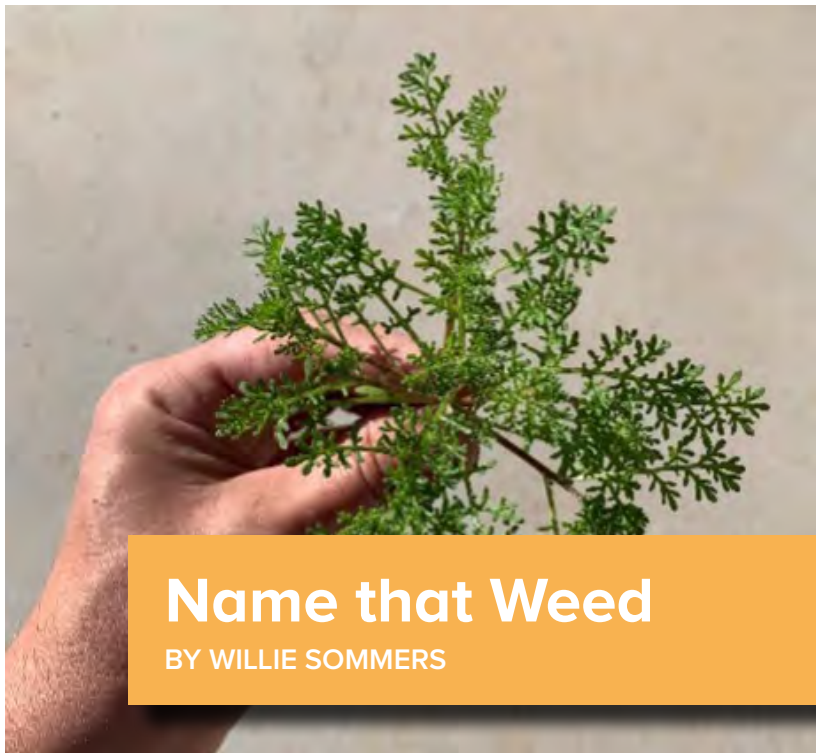
The current group of Merchants is now carrying the torch and continues to make and inspire change on the Mile. As a group, we would love to see a McDowell Road “road diet” that supports more pedestrian traffic to and around the local businesses. Through all iterations of the Merchants Association, this vision of a Mile with local small businesses at its core has remained.

As I reflect on the past, present, and future of the Miracle Mile, I am struck by the power of community and the importance of coming together to support a

common goal. Whether through local organizations like the Miracle Mile Merchants Association or the CNA or simply patronizing local businesses, I’m reminded that we all have a role to play in shaping the future of our community. As we continue to work towards a brighter future for the Miracle Mile and beyond, I am grateful to be a part of this vibrant and dynamic community and to have played a small role in its ongoing revitalization.



Photos courtesy of Willie Sommers



Name that Weed

BY WILLIE SOMMERS

With all the moisture we’ve received this year, parts of the neighborhood are chalk full of weeds. It all happens quickly, and then comes time to remove winter weeds before the heat is on! A few of the common weeds found in our neighborhood include the following – London rocket, cheese weed mallow, foxtail barley, and a relatively new one – stinknet. Stinknet (*Oncosiphon pilulifer* is the scientific name) is an annual (short-lived) flowering plant native to South Africa. Around 2018-2019 stinknet really took off in vacant lots, along roadsides, and in native desert areas within Maricopa County. It’s become so much of an invasive plant here that the Arizona Department of Agriculture added stinknet to the state noxious weed list in 2020.

Stinknet is now common in the Phoenix area, but you can help stop its spread. Consider pulling, weed whacking, or digging up stinknet seedlings. While stinknet is most obvious when flowering, it is easiest to remove when it is young. Stinknet, as the name implies, has a strong odor – and this is one way to identify it. Some people experience dermatitis or respiratory allergies from stinknet, so use caution when handling it. The trouble with stinknet is that in wildland areas around Phoenix, stinknet can grow very dense and when it dries can fuel wildfires. In our neighborhood, stinknet can be kept at bay with a watchful eye and some due diligence by the community. For more information about stinknet, please visit stinknet.org.

About the Coronado Neighborhood Association

Photo courtesy of Willie Sommers

The Coronado Neighborhood Association, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit was established in May 1985 and has been serving the neighborhood for over 30 years.

VISION

We are a diverse group of residents and businesses organized to preserve and promote the unique character of Greater Coronado.

MISSION

We strive to create a deeper sense of community and make Coronado an attractive and desirable place to live and do business.

GOALS

We work to build a united and informed neighborhood, increase resident safety, promote artistic and cultural appreciation, and host events that bring neighbors together.

JOIN US

Your membership dollars help support valuable neighborhood programs like the community garden and tool shed, the giving program, community events, and the Dispatch newsletter.

Membership is open to all residents, businesses, and nonprofits in the Greater Coronado Neighborhood.

Benefits of Membership:

- Members get access to the community tool shed (link above).
- Members are eligible to run for positions on the Coronado Neighborhood Association board.
- Voting privileges at Association general & annual meetings (you must be a member at least 28 days prior to any vote in order to cast your vote)

Visit thecoronadoneighborhood.com/join-us to sign up or renew your membership. If you have trouble paying dues online, please contact us at treasurer@thecoronadoneighborhood.com.

OUR BOARD

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STAY CONNECTED



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Instagram: [@coronadophx](https://www.instagram.com/coronadophx)

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Greater Coronado Neighborhood Business Directory

Photo courtesy of Ed Drummond

ANIMALS AND PETS

Ryan's Pet Supplies

APPAREL AND FOOTWEAR

AZ Street Wear

Segovia's Shoes & Fashion

La Moda Bridal Shop

K Fashion

Washhouse Laundry

ART GALLERIES

Frida's Garden

AUTOMOTIVE

Bavarian Motors

Medina's Automotive

Monte Vista Hand Car Wash

Patron Tires

The Wheel Motorcycle Shop

BAKERIES AND CAFES

La Bohemia Coffee Shop

Bagel Daddy

Coffee Brewed Differently

Coronado Café

Descent Coffee

Froth Coffee Roasters

Ollie Vaughn's

Rainbow Donuts

Urban Cookies

BEER, WINE & BEVERAGES

Boom Boom Room

The Cash Nightclub & Lounge

Furia Musical

Karamba Nightclub

Liquor Wheel 2

Lucky's Liquor

Royale Lounge

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Boys & Girls Club of Metropolitan Phoenix – Warner A. Gabel Branch

Foundation for Senior Living

Fresh Start Women's Foundation

Guru Nanak Dwara

G-Road

Hope Women's Center

Numotion

Trellis

DINING AND RESTAURANTS

America's Taco Shop

Authentic Ethio African Spices

Barrio Café

Casa Corazon

Dima's Fusion

El Chullo

Dining & Restaurants (Continued)

Froth Coffee Roasters

La Cocina Economica

Filiberto's

Guanaquito Restaurant

MacAlpine's Diner & Soda Fountain

The Main Ingredient

La Marquesa

El Ranchero

Realeza Michoacana

Rice Paper



San Carlos Bay Seafood
Tacos Huicho
Taco Mich
Tacos Tijuana Taqueria
The Coronado PHX
Tortas El Guero

EDUCATION

Emerson Elementary School
Incito Schools
North High School
Summit High School
Tutor Time of Phoenix
Whittier Elementary School

FITNESS AND WELLNESS

Shanti Yoga Phx
Tangible Wellness

FOOD/BEVERAGE RETAIL

Carniceria Los Reyes
Desert Drinks & Exotics
Sunshine Market
Virginia Market

HEALTH AND MEDICINE

Abrazo Medical Group
Banner – University Medical Center
Phoenix
NextCare Urgent Care
Phoenix Children’s Hospital

HOME AND GARDEN

Imperial Tile Imports
The Mansion Furniture

PERSONAL CARE

Angelica’s Barber Shop & Beauty
Salon
Guero’s Barbershop
Gypsy Rose Tattoo

Hair Pollution
The Proper Cut Barber Shop
Relm Salon

Swoon Salon & Boutique

The Calvano Salon
Lionette Hair Clipper Service

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Eyeconic Prints

Frontino Pest Control
Techniprint

RECREATION AND SPORTS

Deportes America Soccer Shop
The Velo Bike Shop

SHOPPING AND RETAIL

Maggie’s Thrift
Mucho Mas Gallery & Gifts
Smoke Plus
Smoke Shop
Wicker Goddess
The Hive on 16th

**Have we missed a
business or neighborhood
resource?**

Please contact the
CNA at [vicepresident@
thecoronadoneighborhood.com](mailto:vicepresident@thecoronadoneighborhood.com).

Photo courtesy of Willie Sommers